

MUR # 5437

March 8, 2004

**Federal Elections Commission  
General Counsel  
Washington, D.C. 20463**

I recently resigned from 10 years full time employment with SEIU Local 250 AFL-CIO (Oakland, Ca ), in part due to a discovery of widespread egregious and illegal PAC fundraising.

Local 250 is a union of diversified health care workers. The "Home Health Care" Division of the union has organized more than 20,000 of these workers in the last 1-2 years. An extremely high percentage of these HHC workers are undocumented immigrants. The union puts out literature in Chinese, Spanish, Russian, Tagalog, and various other languages to communicate.

After organizing these workers, and bargaining a contract with various County IHSS Public Authorities, the union exploits these workers lack of knowledge of rights and capitalizes on their "indebtedness" to the union to sign a document called a COPE (Committee on Political Education) form. They tell people that the union needs the money to help them keep their jobs. The money that is raised through these "voluntary contributions" is in addition to the member's regular union dues.

In official reports I have seen, approx. 15,000 of these workers are signed up for *monthly* COPE contributions in the amounts of \$5 - \$20 or more. It was commonly addressed in union Staff meetings regarding the "success" of the HHC Divisions contributions. In fact, it was expected of other Divisions to boost its COPE contributions, under direct threat of discipline. When asked at a Staff meeting of the legality of collecting PAC dollars from illegal immigrants, Union Administrator and VP John Borsos replied, "Don't ask, don't tell." Union President Sal Rosselli made common reference to the "lowest paid workers in the union are by far contributing the most money in COPE."

The union also assigns paid field staff to political campaigns, i.e., phone banking, precinct walking, etc. These assignments are mandatory under threat of discipline if not done. The union pays full time field representatives (employees of the union) their regular salary while performing these required duties. We as field staff were instructed to "clear your calendars" to do political work, or, to *not represent the members* during political campaigns.

I have direct, first hand knowledge of the allegations made herein. I can provide date and time of statements. I can procure additional names of individuals who can verify my statements as true, and can provide additional testimony as direct witnesses.

I swear under penalty of perjury that statements contained in this letter are mine and are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I volunteer to assist in any way in the investigation of these complaints. I urge your immediate attention to these matters.

Timothy A. Bonifay

State of California  
County of Merced

Merced, Ca 95340

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me  
this 8th day of March, 2004, by  
(1) Timothy A. Bonifay  
(2) NONE  
Irish Yaulin Rosales  
Signature of Notary Public

